



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

May 2004

April Brings Lower unemployment and a Slight Rise in Number of Jobs

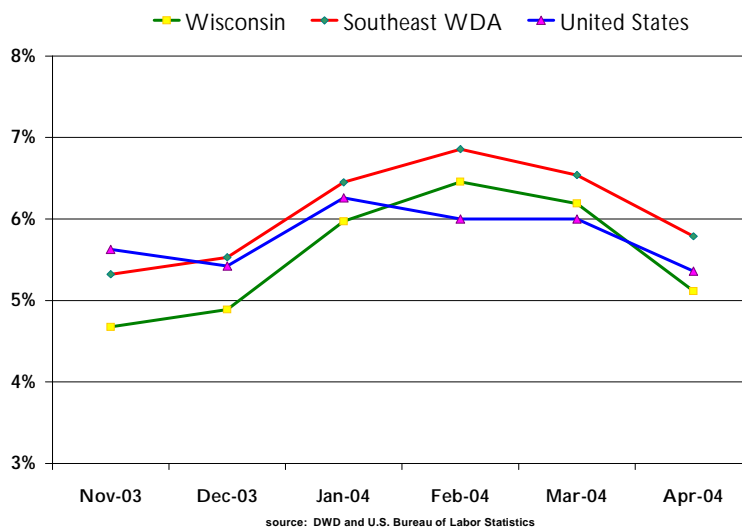
The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) decreased by seven-tenths of a percentage point in April to 7.3 percent. The detailed labor force changes over the month show approximately 700 fewer unemployed residents since March compared to about 90 more employed. The monthly decline in the unemployment rate was about average for the month of

April. Annually, the county's unemployment rate is dramatically lower by 1.4 percent points compared to April 2003. This is the largest annual drop in the county's unemployment rate for the month of April since 1995.

Racine MSA industry employment, at approximately 78,200 total jobs, has shown growth for the third consecutive month tally-

ing 500 more jobs compared to March. Leading the way to the monthly increase were three sectors: construction, leisure and hospitality, and business services adding 200 jobs each. Government employment also showed a small increase of about 100 jobs. Manufacturing employment was the only sector to show a loss of employment, while the remaining industries' employment were characteristically flat in change.

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Annually, the job count was unchanged on a net basis, though it did reflect a good deal of activity over the year in some sectors. Construction, manufacturing and retail trade showed annual employment losses amounting to a combined decrease of 1,100 jobs. Offsetting these losses were significant gains in education and health services employment (+500 jobs) and business services employment (+500 jobs). A gain of 100 jobs in financial activities was also measured compared to one year ago.

April's unemployment rate of the

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: April 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03
Labor force	3,082,944	3,092,320	3,053,672	84,585	85,170	85,092	93,487	94,106	93,329
Employed	2,925,248	2,900,919	2,864,120	80,063	80,052	79,799	86,675	86,587	85,186
Unemployed	157,696	191,401	189,552	4,522	5,118	5,293	6,812	7,519	8,143
% Unemployed	5.1%	6.2%	6.2%	5.3%	6.0%	6.2%	7.3%	8.0%	8.7%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03
Labor force	56,250	55,936	55,845	234,322	235,212	234,266	146,525,000	146,154,000	145,925,000
Employed	54,021	53,194	53,092	220,759	219,833	218,077	137,691,000	137,384,000	137,424,000
Unemployed	2,229	2,742	2,753	13,563	15,379	16,189	8,834,000	8,770,000	8,501,000
% Unemployed	4.0%	4.9%	4.9%	5.8%	6.5%	6.9%	5.4%	6.0%	5.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - April 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WI	
<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	Change	Change		Change	Change		Change	Change		Change	Change		Change	
	since	since		since	since		since	since		since	since		since	
	April	Mar-	April-	April	Mar-	April-	April	Mar-	April-	April	Mar-	April-	April	since Mar-
	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004
All Industries	2,799.7	39.6	38.1	54.1	0.3	-0.8	78.2	0.5	0.0	41.8	0.7	-0.2	174.1	1.5
Construction/Natural Resources	125.0	8.4	5.4	2.2	0.1	-0.1	3.5	0.2	-0.1	1.7	0.2	-0.1	7.4	0.5
Manufacturing	502.6	3.7	-1.3	9.7	0.0	-0.8	19.0	-0.2	-0.7	8.8	0.0	-0.2	37.5	-0.2
Total Trade	434.9	5.4	11.7	8.9	0.2	0.3	12.1	0.0	-0.3	5.7	0.1	0.1	26.7	0.3
Retail Trade	319.0	3.9	8.1	6.8	0.1	0.2	9.1	0.0	-0.3	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	115.9	1.5	3.6	2.1	0.1	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	105.3	0.6	0.0	1.5	0.0	-0.2	1.9	0.0	-0.1	1.1	0.0	-0.1	4.5	0.0
Financial Activities	158.6	-0.5	2.7	1.7	-0.1	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	5.7	-0.1
Education and Health Services	375.0	0.8	10.7	8.4	-0.1	0.4	10.5	0.0	0.5	3.8	0.0	0.0	22.7	-0.1
Leisure and Hospitality	243.2	8.5	7.5	5.8	0.1	-0.1	6.4	0.2	0.0	6.7	0.1	0.0	18.9	0.4
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	434.1	10.1	9.0	6.5	0.1	0.1	11.6	0.2	0.5	5.1	0.3	0.0	23.2	0.6
Information	48.9	0.0	-0.8	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	255.4	10.6	12.3	3.3	0.1	0.1	6.3	0.2	0.5	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	129.8	-0.5	-2.5	2.7	0.0	-0.1	4.7	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	421.0	2.6	-7.6	9.4	0.0	-0.4	10.4	0.1	0.1	7.7	0.0	0.0	27.5	0.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

Kenosha MSA decreased over the month by seven-tenths of a percentage point to 5.3 percent. The annual comparison to April 2003 shows a drop of nine-tenths of a percentage point. The labor force components in this annual comparison show about 260 more employed residents and 770 fewer unemployed residents.

Kenosha MSA industry employment figures from the nonfarm wage and salary estimates showed a total of 54,100 jobs in April. This was a net improvement since the previous month by 300 jobs. This net growth was reflective of flat hiring throughout the majority of industry sectors. Only two sectors, education and health services, and financial activities, showed a loss of employment, -100 jobs, each. Industry sectors showing gains were wholesale trade, retail trade, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services. Each of these sectors saw slight gains of 100 jobs each over the month. Manufacturing employment was unchanged over the month. In summary, the month of April was unexpectedly flat in hiring in Kenosha County especially in contrast to the state's up tick in hiring as of late. But

it should be mentioned that the southeast corner of the state has remained sluggish in hiring relative to the balance of Wisconsin.

Annually, Kenosha showed a net loss of 800 jobs. The bulk of this decrease was centered in manufacturing and government employment. Gains in total trade sector employment along with education and health services employment offset some of these employment losses. Kenosha experienced the largest annual loss of jobs in the Southeast Workforce Development Area.

Walworth County's unemployment rate in April was 4.0 percent, down from 4.9 percent in March. The county showed an 800-person increase over the month in its number of employed coupled with a 500-person decrease in the number of unemployed. The unemployment rate was lower from an annual comparison as well, down from 4.9 percent in April 2003. The annual labor force dynamics were similar to the monthly change with considerably more employed and fewer unemployed.

April is when Walworth County, the

smallest of the regional counties, expresses its seasonal potential gaining almost as many jobs over the month (+700 jobs) as Kenosha and Racine counties, combined. April's growth sectors were construction, business services and leisure and hospitality. The remaining sectors were flat over the month showing little employment change.

Annual changes in Walworth County's industry employment were fairly subdued as it showed a slight, net loss of 200 jobs compared to April 2003. Most sectors were unchanged over the year, though manufacturing and construction do show employment losses. Trade sector employment showed a gain of 100 jobs.

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